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GEORGIA DISASTER APPLICANTS: USE FEMA HELPLINE TO REPORT CHANGES AND TRACK PROGRESS

ATLANTA — Individuals and businesses damaged by the September floods are urged to stay in touch with disaster agencies.

Households that registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by the Nov. 23 deadline can ask questions about the status of their case and update changes in address and phone numbers by calling **800-621-FEMA** (**3362**), **TTY 800-462-7585**. Phone lines are open every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET.

Information also is available online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

Small businesses and most private non-profit organizations that had no physical damage, but suffered economic losses because of the floods and storms, can still apply to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for low-interest disaster loans. Business loan applications may be downloaded from www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Applications may be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, Texas, 76155, or applications may be completed online from SBA's secure Web site at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/. The deadline to apply for an SBA economic injury disaster loan is June 24, 2010.

For more information, individuals and businesses can contact the SBA Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or **TTY 800-877-8339** Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET or send an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or visit www.sba.gov.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

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For more information on Georgia's disaster recovery, visit <u>www.fema.gov</u> or <u>www.gema.ga.gov</u> or <u>www.ready.ga.gov</u> or <u>http://twitter.com/GeorgiaEMA</u>